

Cities of Fort Lauderdale and Miami Beach Add Additional Proactive Measures to Limit Large Gatherings

 [Read the Mayor's Update](#)

 [Read the Amended Declaration of Emergency Regulations](#)

 [View Video of the Announcement](#)

March 15, 2020 – Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean J. Trantalis joined Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber at a press briefing today at Miami Beach City Hall to announce additional proactive measures both cities are taking in response to COVID-19.

Mayor Trantalis extended the City of Fort Lauderdale's Declaration of Emergency Regulations to include the following additional measures, effective today and continuing through April 12, 2020:

- All public gatherings of any type, whether organized or otherwise, of greater than 250 persons are prohibited;
- All bars, nightclubs, and restaurants are mandated to close for business daily at or before 10 p.m. and remain closed until at least 6 a.m. the following day;
- All bars, nightclubs, and restaurants must reduce and limit their occupancy by 50% during all hours of operation;
- All public beaches in the City of Fort Lauderdale will be closed from the Atlantic Ocean to the easternmost sidewalk of A1A or to any right-of-way or property line abutting the beach, and from Oakland Park Boulevard south to Harbor Drive; and
- All City recreational facilities will be closed.

These measures are being put in place for the protection of the community, visitors, and employees to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the healthcare system is not overwhelmed. The City will continue to assess the situation and make changes as necessary. The updated declaration will be available on the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov/coronavirus.

"We have to do everything possible to minimize crowds and unfortunately, our beautiful beaches must be part of that plan," said Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis. "I want to be clear that this is not an overreaction, but a way for us to help stop further cases of COVID-19 in our community. We must all do our part to save lives. This includes protecting our residents, visitors, and our first responders."

The City of Fort Lauderdale is partnering with their southern neighbor, the City of Miami Beach, to implement similar measures in deterring large spring break crowds. Both municipalities have faced similar challenges with the influx of large crowds this time of the year and are aligned in their efforts to implement social distancing.

"It simply can't be business as usual in our City," said Mayor Dan Gelber. "COVID-19 is a threat as much here as anywhere. We simply cannot endure these kinds of gatherings and crowds. Our measures are intended to send a clear message that Spring Break is cancelled and that everyone, even young people home from school, need to embrace these health and safety concerns. We are proud of our hospitality industry, and concerned with the toll it will have on our businesses and workers but we cannot elevate those concerns above very real health risks."

To read Miami Beach's revised [Declaration of Emergency Measures](#), please visit bit.ly/39T5zZH.

As a reminder, individuals with questions related to the coronavirus should call the Florida Department of Health's Coronavirus Call Center at 1-866-779-6121 which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

Individuals who are concerned that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call 954-412-7300 before traveling to any health care facility.

For additional information about measures the City is taking to combat the coronavirus, please visit www.fortlauderdale.gov/coronavirus.

For additional information about the coronavirus, please visit www.coronavirus.gov or www.floridahealth.gov.

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